

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 603

By West

A RESOLUTION to commend Teddy Bart and Karlen Evins for their contributions to public discussion through their work on Teddy Bart's Round Table and through its extension through "The Public Forum", a not-for-profit educational broadcast foundation.

WHEREAS, the average person, when asked about talk radio or television, tends to think of the programs of the currently popular commentators, particularly those who use their programs to advance a particular ideology or philosophy and who may be less than kind to callers-in who disagree with their points of view; such talk show hosts do indeed draw a large listenership, but may not do all that much to advance any sort of enlightened consensus; and

WHEREAS, others, however, have striven for balance and fairness in their discussions and selection of guests; one such forum, originating in Nashville, has been Teddy Bart's Round Table, hosted by Teddy Bart and Karlen Evins, owners of Bart-Evins Broadcasting, LLC; and

WHEREAS, Teddy Bart came to Nashville over 30 years ago as an aspiring singer and songwriter; in 1969, he initiated WSM radio's first telephone call-in show and was named host of the popular Noon Show in 1970; and

WHEREAS, as the 70s advanced, Teddy assumed leadership of WSM radio's Waking Crew and launched Teddy Bart's Nashville in 1974; he also wrote a weekly column for the *Nashville Banner*, and

WHEREAS, in 1981, Teddy Bart became a news anchor with Nashville's WNGE-TV and hosted the talk show Live Tonight the following year he was named host of Offstage, a nightly national cable interview show. In 1984, he returned to WSM-TV to anchor the news and host; Teddy Bart's Nashville; in 1986, he initiated Nashville icon, Teddy Bart's Round Table, and the following year partnered with Karlen Evins to form the production company that would oversee Beyond Reason national syndication; and

WHEREAS, when Karlen Evins came to Nashville from Alexandria, Tennessee, in 1987, she heard a talk show on WLAC radio, went to the hotel broadcast site, asked a question on-air, and then took a non-paying internship when she found no jobs were available with the station; six months later she was the producer of Beyond Reason; and

WHEREAS, Karlen went on to become co-host of Beyond Reason and in 1988 was added to the cast of Teddy Bart's Round Table; she began producing and appearing on air for a new nightly television talk show in 1990, became a newscaster as part of Carl P. Mayfield's "P Team", and received her own daily talk radio show, Public Opinion; and

WHEREAS, also in 1990, Karlen became the weather girl for the new Channel 4 Saturday Morning Show, and during the succeeding three years she was promoted to co-host while also becoming weather anchor for WXMT's Prime Time News; in 1993, Teddy and Karlen formed Bart-Evins Broadcasting LLC and added and co-hosted Lunch with Teddy & Karlen, Music City Minute and Online...with Teddy & Karlen; and

WHEREAS, Teddy Bart and Karlen Evins bought radio station WKDA in 1995, selling it in 1998; the same year they leased time for the Round Table on WAMB; and

WHEREAS, in 2000, identifying a need for the sort of balanced and fair discourse on public issues across Tennessee that radio programs such as Teddy Bart's Nashville had provided listeners with for 15 years, Teddy and Karlen established The Public Forum, a not-for-

profit educational broadcast foundation "to provide the public with a continuous stream of in-depth information, cross-referenced media sources, public feedback and direct links to those in decision-making positions." The Forum will develop programming for public access channels across the state and foster beneficial and thought-provoking discussion of the crucial issues facing Tennesseans in the area of news, public policy and current events; and

WHEREAS, Teddy Bart has authored Inside Music City U.S.A. and The Mensch and was voted "Nashville's Best Talk Show Host" by the readers of the *Nashville Scene* in 1993, 1994, 1995 and 1996; Karlen Evins has written two books derived from her popular radio feature, I Didn't Know That. Both Teddy and Karlen were named as one of Nashville's most influential people by *Business Nashville* magazine in 1997; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly pause to honor the distinguished careers of these two outstanding broadcast professionals, columnists and authors; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby commend and thank Teddy Bart and Karlen Evins for their astute and superior broadcast journalism, political and social commentary and commitment to public discourse provided over the years to the good people of Nashville through their partnership in Teddy Bart's Nashville and their other endeavors, both individual and joint.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we commend Mr. Bart and Ms. Evins for their vision of extending enlightened public discourse across the state through the medium of The Public Forum and wish them every success in this and all their further endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.